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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01 DODE-00

CPR-02 SAJ-01 SCA-01 /078 W

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P R 171721Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2261

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 1422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TESTS FOR HESS

REF: BERLIN 1387

1. SUMMARY: SOVIETS HAVE NOW WITHDRAWN AGREEMENT GIVEN AUGUST 13 THAT MEDICAL TESTS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AND URGENT BY DOCTORS BE ADMINISTERED TO HESS. ALLIES HAVE PRESSED ONCE MORE FOR FAVORABLE DECISION, AND FOR SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF APPARENT DIFFERENCES WITHIN LOCAL SOVIET DECISION-MAKING MACHINERY. HOWEVER, PROSPECTS SEEM NONE TOO BRIGHT AND PERHAPS A FURTHER APPROACH WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO SOVIETS OUTSIDE BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. (CHAIRMAN) PROTOCOL OFFICERS AUGUST 13 (REFTEL), IN WHICH ROMANOVSKY SAID THAT SOVIETS COULD NOW APPROVE PROPOSED MEDICAL TESTS, GOVERNORS OF SPANDAU PRISON MET IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF MOVEMENT OF PRISONER TO BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL AND OF ADMIN-
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STRATION OF TESTS. TO SURPRISE OF ALLIED GOVERNORS,

SOVIET ACTING GOVERNOR INFORMED THEM THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN SOVIET POSITION OF OPPOSING TESTS UNLESS CARRIED OUT IN SPANDAU PRISON. SOVIET ACTING GOVERNOR CONFIRMED THIS THROUGH TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SERB CHIEF, COLONEL NYUNIN.

3. IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS DISCREPANCY IN SOVIET POSITIONS, U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER TELEPHONED ROMANOVSKY AFTERNOON AUGUST 14 TO INQUIRE WHERE DIFFICULTY LAY. LATTER APPEARED GENUINELY CONFUSED, AND SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT BASIC AGREEMENT ON TESTS EXISTED AN THAT IT REMAINED ONLY FOR DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT. U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER SAID THAT APPARENTLY MORE THAN DETAILS WERE STILL AT ISSUE, AND SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS DECISION REACHED BY AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV AND SOVIET CINC PREVIOUS MORNING HAD NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO NYUNIN AND SOVIET SPANDAU GOVERNOR. ROMANOVSKY UNDERTOOK AFTER SOME HESITATION TO FIND OUT WHERE MATTERS STOOD.

4. U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER CALLED AT SOVIET EMBASSY AUGUST 15 TO DELIVER TRIPARTITELY-AGREED REPLY TO SOVIET STATEMENT ON WOHLRABE'S MILITARY SERVICE (BERLIN 1376), AND AT SAME TIME INQUIRED WHETHER FURTHER PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN HESS MATTER. ROMANOVSKY IMMEDIATELY EXPRESSED APOLOGIES, AND SAID THAT HE HAD MADE MISTAKE IN NOTIFYING US THAT POSITIVE DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED TO APPROVE TESTS. IN FACT, DECISION HAD NOT BEEN FINAL ONE, AND "SEVERAL DETAILS" REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, ROMANOVSKY SAID THAT COLONEL NYUNIN WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO TESTS AND THAT SOVIET CINC HAD NOT REALLY MADE UP HIS MIND. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTED AND AGREED WITH ALLIED POSITION THAT TESTS WERE NECESSARY; IT WAS SIMPLY MATTER OF RELUCTANCE ON PART OF SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN GDR, WHO WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SPANDAU OPERATIONS WITHIN SOVIET SYSTEM. ROMANOVSKY SAID THAT HE WAS HAVING SPECIAL MEETING WITH NYUNIN AUGUST 16 TO STRAIGHTEN OUT MATTER, AND WOULD AFTERWARDS INFORM US OF RESULTS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERLIN 1422

5. NOT HAVING HEARD FROM SOVIET EMBASSY, U.S. PROTOCOL OFFICER TELEPHONED ROMANOVSKY MORNING AUGUST 17 ON OTHER PRETEXT AND INQUIRED EN PASSANT AS TO STATE OF PLAY ON HESS. ROMANOVSKY SAID THAT DIFFICULTY NOW WAS THAT YEFREMOV WAS ON VACATION AWAY FROM BERLIN, AND THAT ACCORDINGLY ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL MATTER COULD BE DECIDED UPON FINALLY. HE WOULD GIVE NO ESTIMATE AS TO HOW LONG WE MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT, AND TERMINATED CONVERSATION SOMEWHAT ABRUPTLY.

6. BRITISH POLAD EXPRESSED VIEW TO MISSION OFFICERS MORNING AUGUST 17 THAT SOME FURTHER STEP MUST BE TAKEN IN CAPITALS OR MOWCOW IF SOVIET LOGJAM IS TO BE BROKEN. HE SAID THAT IF U.S. DOCTOR, WHO IS CHARGED WITH TREATING HESS DURING AUGUST WHEN U.S. IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL PRISON AFFAIRS, CONSIDERS TESTS REMAIN URGENT BRITISH MISSION WILL PROBABLY RECOMMEND TO LONDON THAT IT SUPPORT NEW TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE. U.S. DOCTOR SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT TESTS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY URGENT WITH PASSAGE OF NEARLY MONTH SINCE DOCTORS CONCLUDED QUADRIPARTITELY THAT TESTS SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. U.S. DOCTOR NOTED THAT HESS HAS GAINED ONLY THREE POUNDS SINCE U.S. TOOK OVER PRISON AUGUST 1, ALTHOUGH HE IS NOW EATING HEAVILY, AND WEIGHT HAS STABILIZED. ORIGINAL WEIGHT LOSS OF 14 POUNDS IN TWO MONTHS AND PRESENT INABILITY TO GAIN BACK MOST OF WEIGHT LOST REMAINS UNEXPLAINED AND MEDICALLY TROUBLING.

7. COMMENT: WE INCLINED AGREE WITH BRITISH VIEW THAT SOVIETS UNLIKELY TO GIVE AFFIRMATIVE REPLY WITHIN SHORT TIME AND THAT FURTHER APPROACH PERHAPS NECESSARY. IF SUCH

APPROACH IS NOT MADE WITHIN FEW DAYS, SOVIETS MIGHT
CONCLUDE THAT ALLIES NO LONGER ATTACH
MEDICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO TESTS. WE THEREFORE WOULD PROPOSE THAT
BRITISH BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TAKING LEAD ON THIS
MATTER. MOREOVER, MEDICAL SITUATION WARRANTS OUR SUPPORT.
SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY GONE AS HIGH IN BERLIN CHANNEL AS WE
CAN WITH LETTER FROM CHARGE TO YEFREMOV, WE SHOULD AT THIS
TIME CONSIDER A DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW AS MOST DIRECT CHANNEL
IN SITUATION WHERE TIME IS OF ESSENCE. IN MAKING SUCH
PRESENTATION REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO CHARGE'S LETTER, AND
FOUR POWER RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ADEAUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT
SHOULD PROABLY BE STRESSED.KLEIN

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